



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,272	09/30/2002	Akira Ohmura	106121.08	5682
25944	7590	05/03/2006	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			HERNANDEZ, NELSON D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,272

Applicant(s)

OHMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

Art Unit

2622

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-27 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-27 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/21/02, 7/15/03, 5/4/04, 7/14/04, 9/30/05
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges the preliminary amendments made to the claims filed on April 20, 2005. Claims 1-8 have been amended. Claims 1-13 have been canceled. Claims 14-27 have been newly added.

Drawings

2. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because in fig. 15, block S521, the label "DELETIG TRANSMITTED CAMERA FILES OTHER THAN PTOTECTED" should be written as "DELETING TRANSMITTED CAMERA FILES OTHER THAN PROTECTED". Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 14-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis, US Patent 6,721,001 B1 in view of Koyama, US 6,237,106 B1.**

Regarding claim 14, Berstis discloses a digital image storage system comprising: a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214) capable of storing digital images and a manually operable power switch (a power switch is inherently taught by Berstis; a power switch is necessitated in Berstis to switch from an operative state and an inoperative state the digital camera) that switches the digital camera between an operative state and an inoperative state; a data storage (Berstis discloses that the images are transmitted to a server or a computer system; col. 2, lines 40-46; col. 4, lines 53-63) including a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) on which the digital camera can be placed and a storage medium (by teaching that the images are transmitted to a server or a computer system, Berstis inherently discloses a data storage having a storage medium for storing the digital images since a storage medium is necessitated to store the image data; col. 2, lines 40-46; col. 4, lines 53-63) that stores the digital images transmitted from the digital camera memory through the docking station; a controller (Fig. 2: 216) that controls the transmission of the digital

Art Unit: 2622

images from the digital camera memory to the storage medium (Col. 1, lines 45-50; col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 29-63).

Berstis does not explicitly disclose that the controller controls the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera memory to the storage medium without a manual operation of the power switch to switch the digital camera from the inoperative state to the operative state.

However, Koyama teaches a communication method wherein when a device (i.e. a digital camera, video tape recorder "VTR", etc) detects connection to an external device, it automatically changes an inoperative state (sleep mode) to an operative state (active mode) enabling communication between both devices and when communication between the two devices is terminated, the first device waits a predetermined period of time before switching back to the inoperative state (sleep mode) (Col. 17, line 50 – col. 18, line 35). Switching from an inoperative state to an operative state based on a detection of a connected device and from an operative state to an inoperative state based on a termination of communication is advantageous because it would help the digital image storage system to reduce power consumption and to establish a communication path to the image storage when necessary and would also reduce the steps performed in order to transfer digital images from the digital camera to the storage device.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Koyama as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the digital image storage system of Berstis by having the

Art Unit: 2622

circuit to change the status of the camera from a sleep mode to active mode in response to a connection detected between the camera and said image storage and to switch back to sleep mode after elapsed of a predetermined period of time after transmission is terminated. The motivation to do so would enable the camera to reduce power consumption and to establish a communication path to the image storage when necessary as suggested by Koyama (Col. 2, lines 15-18) and would also reduce the steps performed in order to transfer digital images from the digital camera to the storage device.

Regarding claim 15, limitations can be found in claim 14.

Regarding claim 16, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Koyama as applied to claim 15 teaches that the controller transmits a signal to the digital camera for switching the digital camera from the inoperative state to the operative state before the digital images are transmitted from the digital camera (Koyama teaches changing from the inoperative state to the operative state when the external device is connected prior to start communication; col. 17, line 50 – col. 18, line 35).

Regarding claim 17, limitations can be found in claims 14 and 16.

Regarding claim 18, limitations can be found in claim 14.

Regarding claim 19, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Koyama fails to teach that the controller is located at the data storage.

However, Official Notice is taken that controllers housed in external apparatuses for controlling different operations (i.e. capturing images, copying image files, deleting image files, controlling capturing conditions, controlling camera modes, etc.) in a

camera are notoriously well known in the art. Having a controller for controlling different operations in a camera is advantageous because it would reduce the size and cost of the digital camera since the processes would be performed in the external apparatus.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the digital image storage system of Berstis in view of Koyama by having the controller housed in the data storage. The motivation to do so would have been to improve the digital image storage system by reducing the size and cost of the digital camera since the processes would be performed in the data storage.

Regarding claim 20, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Koyama teaches that the docking station has a shape to fit a bottom of the digital camera (See Berstis fig.1, docking station 106 has a shape to fit a bottom part of the digital camera 102; col. 2, lines 15-39).

Regarding claim 21, Berstis discloses a digital image storage system comprising: a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214) capable of storing digital images and a manually operable power switch (a power switch is inherently taught by Berstis; a power switch is necessitated in Berstis to switch from an operative state and an inoperative state the digital camera) that switches the digital camera between an operative state and an inoperative state; a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) on which the digital camera can be placed; a storage medium (by teaching that the images are transmitted to a server or a computer system, Berstis inherently discloses a data storage having a storage medium for storing the digital images since a storage

Art Unit: 2622

medium is necessitated to store the image data; col. 2, lines 40-46; col. 4, lines 53-63) that stores the digital images transmitted from the digital camera memory through the docking station; and a controller (Fig. 2: 216) that controls the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera memory to the storage medium (Col. 1, lines 45-50; col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 29-63).

Berstis does not explicitly disclose that the controller controls the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera memory to the storage medium without a manual operation of the power switch to switch the digital camera from the inoperative state to the operative state.

However, Koyama teaches a communication method wherein when a device (i.e. a digital camera, video tape recorder "VTR", etc) detects connection to an external device, it automatically changes an inoperative state (sleep mode) to an operative state (active mode) enabling communication between both devices and when communication between the two devices is terminated, the first device waits a predetermined period of time before switching back to the inoperative state (sleep mode) (Col. 17, line 50 – col. 18, line 35). Switching from an inoperative state to an operative state based on a detection of a connected device and from an operative state to an inoperative state based on a termination of communication is advantageous because it would help the digital image storage system to reduce power consumption and to establish a communication path to the image storage when necessary and would also reduce the steps performed in order to transfer digital images from the digital camera to the storage device.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Koyama as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the digital image storage system of Berstis by having the circuit to change the status of the camera from a sleep mode to active mode in response to a connection detected between the camera and said image storage and to switch back to sleep mode after elapsed of a predetermined period of time after transmission is terminated. The motivation to do so would enable the camera to reduce power consumption and to establish a communication path to the image storage when necessary as suggested by Koyama (Col. 2, lines 15-18) and would also reduce the steps performed in order to transfer digital images from the digital camera to the storage device.

Regarding claim 22, limitations can be found in claim 21.

Regarding claim 23, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Koyama as applied to claim 15 teaches that the controller transmits a signal to the digital camera for switching the digital camera from the inoperative state to the operative state before the digital images are transmitted from the digital camera (Koyama teaches changing from the inoperative state to the operative state when the external device is connected prior to start communication; col. 17, line 50 – col. 18, line 35).

Regarding claim 24, limitations can be found in claims 21 and 23.

Regarding claim 25, limitations can be found in claim 21.

Regarding claim 26, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Koyama teaches that the docking station has a shape to fit a bottom of the digital camera (See

Berstis fig.1, docking station 106 has a shape to fit a bottom part of the digital camera 102; col. 2, lines 15-39).

Regarding claim 27, Berstis discloses a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) that can be placed on a docking station (Fig. 1: 106), the digital camera comprising: a memory (Fig. 2: 214) capable of storing digital images; a battery (Fig. 2: 218); a manually operable power switch (a power switch is inherently taught by Berstis; a power switch is necessitated in Berstis to switch from an operative state and an inoperative state the digital camera) that switches the digital camera between an operative state and an inoperative state; a first connector (connector 217 as shown in fig. 2) through which data communication between the docking station and the digital camera is carried out when the digital camera is placed on the docking station; a controller (Fig. 2: 216) that controls the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera memory to the storage medium; and a second connector (connector 219 as shown in fig. 2) through which the docking station supplies the battery with electric power to charge the battery when the digital camera is placed on the docking station (Col. 1, lines 45-50; col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 29-63).

Berstis does not explicitly disclose that the controller receives a signal through the first connector for switching the digital camera from the inoperative state to the operative state without a manual operation of the power switch.

However, Koyama teaches a communication method wherein when a device (i.e. a digital camera, video tape recorder “VTR”, etc) detects connection to an external device, it automatically changes an inoperative state (sleep mode) to an operative state

(active mode) enabling communication between both devices and when communication between the two devices is terminated, the first device waits a predetermined period of time before switching back to the inoperative state (sleep mode) (Col. 17, line 50 – col. 18, line 35). Switching from an inoperative state to an operative state based on a detection of a connected device and from an operative state to an inoperative state based on a termination of communication is advantageous because it would help the digital image storage system to reduce power consumption and to establish a communication path to the image storage when necessary and would also reduce the steps performed in order to transfer digital images from the digital camera to the storage device.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Koyama as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the digital image storage system of Berstis by having the circuit to change the status of the camera from a sleep mode to active mode in response to a connection detected between the camera and said image storage and to switch back to sleep mode after elapsed of a predetermined period of time after transmission is terminated. The motivation to do so would enable the camera to reduce power consumption and to establish a communication path to the image storage when necessary as suggested by Koyama (Col. 2, lines 15-18) and would also reduce the steps performed in order to transfer digital images from the digital camera to the storage device.

Art Unit: 2622

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nelson D. Hernandez
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

NDHH
April 26, 2006


TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER